

“Foundation Commons:”

Collaborative opportunities with existing e-Grant initiatives of non-profit foundations.

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The collaborative role of foundations with respect to federal e-Grant initiatives is unclear, but potentially crucial.

- IAEGC S&L Subcommittee - “to promote, coordinate, and facilitate the effective use of information technology and electronic commerce (EC) throughout the state and local grants community.”
- On the surface, the IAEGC mission statement focuses on state & local governments and foundations as *grant recipients*.

ScienceWise and some *grantmaking* foundations formed “Foundation Commons” with objectives similar to the “Federal Commons.”

Shared efficiency was the primary objective.

- Reduced overhead (1.5% at Alzheimer’s Association)
- Eliminated the cost and time delays associated with paper (Arthritis Foundation was moving “three tons of paper, five times, in thirty days.”)
- Renting the “*hosted*” solution “operationalized” capital investment, IT skills and customer support.



“Foundation Commons” has successfully operated for over three years.

proposalCENTRAL is the product of “Foundation Commons.”

- for grant seekers, it is a single submission site to multiple foundations
- 3 years doing online proposals and peer reviews
- 14,000 thousand proposals & reviews
- 2 million grant announcements e-mailed per month, 240,000 registered grant-seekers



Significant overlap between “Foundation Commons” and “Federal Commons” suggest specific areas of opportunity.

Announcements

- Leverage private announcement services with federal (FedBizOps)

Profiles

- “Endorse” a neutral, third-party repository (non-federal)
- “Certify” bi-directional access

Proposal data

- Publish a clearer “commons” data dictionary;
- Enable submission by external proposal systems at the start, not the end;
- Endorse an optional “common grant application.”

Peer review

- Evaluate competitive pressures;
- Create a load balancing process for shared reviewers;
- Support research in effective online meeting facilitation.

Award reporting

- Publish a comprehensive U.S. R&D portfolio.